

Insecutor Inscitiae Menstruus

Vol. VII

JANUARY-MARCH, 1919

Nos. 1-3

NEW SPECIES OF TROPICAL AMERICAN MOSQUITOES

(*Diptera, Culicidæ*)

BY HARRISON G. DYAR AND FREDERICK KNAB¹

Wyeomyia prolepidis, new species.

Proboscis rather long, slightly swollen at the tip, black, the labellæ slightly paler; palpi short, one-sixth the length of the proboscis; clypeus densely clothed with small, flat, dark-brown scales; membrane of the front more or less prominent between the tori and pale; occiput with flat back scales and a narrow border of small white ones continuously along the eye-margins, forming a large white patch on the lower part of the side. Prothoracic lobes with flat dark scales, having a dark violet reflection in some lights; mesonotum with flat black scales. Abdomen black above, white below, the colors separated on the sides in a straight line. Legs entirely black scaled, with slight bronzy reflections beneath, the femora paler beneath. Pleuræ pale brown with large dark brown stains. Wing scales dense, ovate and obliquely subtruncate, all blackish. Length, 3 mm.

Types, five females, No. 21779, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Culebra, Canal Zone, Panama. specimens caught by hand (L. H. Dunn).

Differs from any species known to us by the scales on the clypeus. Nearest in coloration to *W. galoa* D. & K. and *W. cacodela* D. & K.; but in these species the clypeus is entirely devoid of scales. The male, larva and life history are unfortunately unknown. This may be *Prosopolepis jocosa* D. & K.,

¹Mr. Knab died on November 2, 1918.

but seems a smaller, frailer insect. Without a known male, the position of *Prosopolepis* is somewhat uncertain. In the Monograph, we placed it with the *Joblotia* group on account of the contiguous eyes. Peryassú places it with the *Wyeomyia* group, and he may be in the right. We await the discovery of a male.

Wyeomyia fauna, new species.

Prothoracic lobes violet-blue; occiput dark-scaled, without white border to the eyes; abdomen black-scaled above, silvery white below, the colors separated on the sides in a nearly straight line; legs with the fore tarsi dark; mid tarsi with the tip of the first joint and the second to fifth marked continuously with white below; hind tarsi with the last two joints white all around; wing scales dense, broad, blackish, obliquely subtruncate.

Types, two males and one female, No. 21999, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Bas Obispo, Canal Zone, Panama, August 1913 (J. Zetek).

Close to *W. pandora* D. & K., of which it may be a variety.

Sabethinus moerbista, new species.

Head black-scaled, a white border to the eyes, narrowing above, forming a small spot on the vertex, widening into a large patch on the sides below; proboscis moderate, slightly thickened at tip. Prothoracic lobes large, contiguous dorsally, clothed with black scales, with some white ones at tip and base, changing with the incidence of the light. Mesonotum with dark bronzy scales; postnotum dark brown, devoid of scales, but with a group of dark bristles posteriorly. Abdomen black-scaled above, white below, the colors separated on the sides in a somewhat irregular line, the black projecting down a little at the posterior edge of each segment. Legs bronzy black scaled, the tarsi without any white markings. Wing scales large, broad, many obliquely subtruncate; cross-veins with the lower considerably within the other two. Length of thorax and abdomen together, 4 mm.

Type, female, No. 21995, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Rupununi, British Guiana (K. S. Wise).

Lesticocampa moralesi, new species.

Female. Palpi about one-third the length of the proboscis, equal in length to four joints of the antennæ, black-scaled. Abdomen black above, pale golden yellow below, the pale color projecting upward roundedly on the posterior end of each segment. Legs dark brown scaled with blue and bronzy reflections; a white spot at tip of hind tibia; hind femur with an irregularly shaped white ring at outer third. Wing scales broadly ovate, blackish; cross-veins nearly in line.

Types, two females, No. 21997, U. S. Nat. Mus.; San Felipe, Departamento Retalhuleu, Guatemala, and Finca San Basilio, Departamento Solola, Guatemala, 1,200 feet (Dr. Morales).

The species is closely allied to *Hyloconops longipalpis* Theobald, but the palpi are shorter.

Culex bonneæ, new species.

Proboscis and palpi black, unmarked, the palpi of the female short, those of the male exceeding the proboscis by nearly the length of the last two joints, which are slender and sparsely hairy. Head with narrow curved pale brown scales on the vertex and broader pale ones on the sides; many erect forked black ones on the nape. Integument of mesonotum brown, pale on the lateral angles and antescutellar space, clothed with narrow curved pale brown scales, without special pattern and sparse black bristles; pleuræ pale, with fine pale bristles. Abdomen normal, slender, the tip truncate, clothed dorsally with black scales, the tips of the segments with pale bristles; lateral spots whitish, triangular, basal, increasing in size posteriorly, scarcely visible from above; venter entirely sordid whitish scaled. Legs blackish brown scaled, the femora broadly whitish at base below and narrowly so nearly to the tips; tips of femora and tibiæ pale; tarsi entirely blackish. Wings hyaline, the outstanding scales narrowly ligulate. Length of female, 4.5 mm.; of male, 4 mm.

Male genitalia. Side pieces conical, about three times as long as wide, excavated at base; subapical lobe indistinctly divided, the outer portion with a group of about seven flattened setæ, the inner portion with three rods. Harpes thin, membranous, spinose at tip but without a basal arm; unci divided, first plate triangular, concave; second plate club-shaped, terminating in many denticles; third plate long and strap-shaped.

Larva. Head broad and subquadrate; antennæ with a tuft at the outer third of the joint, the part beyond slender; head hairs in threes, of equal length. Skin of the body spicular. Lateral comb of the eighth segment of many small scales in a patch three rows deep. Air-tube about twice as long as wide, curved on the posterior margin; pecten of about 12 teeth, running nearly the full length of the tube, the last three teeth very stout; hair tufts in about six pairs, crowded together posteriorly and also localized longitudinally forming a tuft, the hairs as long as the tube and extending beyond it. Anal segment ringed by the plate.

Cotypes, No. 21646, U. S. Nat. Mus., two males and three females, bred from larvæ found in a water barrel, in a very dirty puddle and in a tree-hole; Compagnie des Mines d'or, Lawa River, Dutch Guiana (Mrs. J. Bonne-Wepster), March, 1917.

This species belongs to *Culex* proper, the second plate of the male genitalia being formed as in *C. corniger* Theob. and *C. duplicator* D. & K., with which it should be placed. From *corniger*, it differs in the structure of the lobe of the side piece, and agrees with *duplicator*; but from the latter it differs in coloration, being a plainly colored form without any white markings. Our correspondent, in transmitting the material, identifies the species doubtfully as *C. palus* Theob., which, indeed, it might be as far as the coloration is concerned. However, we have identified *palus* with *similis*, etc. (Dyar, *Ins. Ins. Menstr.*, vi, 95, 1918), which differs in the form of the scales on the mesonotum.

Culex chryselatus, new species.

Proboscis black, the labellæ whitish; palpi short in the female, exceeding the proboscis in the male, but not greatly so, slender, with few hairs, the long joint with a white ring in the middle, the last two joints with minute basal rings. Antennæ blackish, plumose in the male. Head with dense, rather broad curved scales, golden yellow, with many erect forked golden ones. Mesonotum with the anterior part, somewhat less than half, clothed with narrow curved golden yellow scales, cut by five narrow impressed dark lines; this area is curved behind, and followed by uniform dark brown scales; bristles coarse, black. Abdomen black scaled, with small white spots at the bases of the third, fourth, and fifth segments; large quadrate basal segmental lateral white spots; venter pale, the posterior segments blackish posteriorly. Legs black, femora pale at base below, the tips white; hind tibiæ with a white spot at base, middle and apex; tarsi with white basal rings, small on front and middle legs, occupying the basal fourths of the joints on the hind legs. Wings hyaline, the outstanding scales narrowly ligulate. Length, about 3 mm.

Male genitalia. Side pieces conical, three times as long as wide, excavated at the base; lobe situated near the middle, consisting of a short rod with two stout setæ, one a little more basally inserted than the other; beyond this are four setæ in two pairs, stouter than those of the general vestiture and on slightly elevated bases. Harpes slender, comb-shaped, with about ten terminal teeth. Unci divided; an outer sheathing plate, laterally situated; a pair of basal hooks; a triangular curved plate, into the base of which is inserted by a socket a thin, membranous elliptical plate; fourth plate quadrate, sharply angled and with a retrose tooth.

Larva. Head wider than long, rounded on the sides. Antennæ long and slender, with long terminal spines; a very slight notch at the outer fourth bearing a many-haired tuft. Head hairs, upper a five-haired long tuft, lower single and long, third single and small. Skin of body glabrous. Lateral

comb of the eighth segment of many spines in a patch four rows deep, the anterior spines small, the posterior ones large and well separated. Air-tube very long and slender, flared at the base, straight and uniform beyond, some ten times as long as wide; a three-haired small tuft at basal third, a two-haired one near middle and a longer two-haired one at apical third. Pecten of about nine large well separated teeth on basal fourth of tube. Anal segment long, ringed by the plate; dorsal hairs, two long ones on each side.

The pupa has long air-tubes, which are pale with two blackish bands.

Cotypes, No. 21647, U. S. Nat. Mus., one male and two females, bred from larvæ in epiphytic Bromeliaceæ; Compagnie des Mines d'or, Lawa River, Dutch Guiana (Mrs. J. Bonne-Wepster), March, 1917.

This species belongs to the subgenus *Microculex* Theobald. The structure of the genitalia ally it to *C. inimitabilis* D. & K. and *C. ocellatus* Theob., being nearer to the former. The coloration of the legs, however, is different from that of any species known to us, being in that respect nearest to *C. daumas-tocampa* D. & K., next to which it should be placed.

Culex ocosa, new species.

Proboscis and palpi black; occiput with narrow flat white scales on the sides, narrower at the vertex and mixed with black ones there; many erect forked black scales. Mesonotum brown, clothed with fine hair-like bronzy brown scales and black bristles; some of the bristles very long, coarse and dark brown; median grooves slight; antescutellar space bare. Abdomen blackish brown above, the segments somewhat paler at the bases on account of the pale bristles, but without bands; lateral quadrate white basal segmental patches; venter pale, the segments with apical blackish bands. Legs blackish brown, the femora whitish beneath, unmarked. Wing scales ovate, blackish, with a few linear outstanding ones.

Male genitalia. Side pieces conical, about twice as long as wide, emarginate at base; clasp filament simple, tapering out-

wardly and enlarged a little before tip, the terminal spine inserted before apex and widely appendiculate; apical setæ of side-piece long, one of them flattened and leaf-like; lobe divided widely, the outer portion slender, bearing a long hooked filament and a broadly expanded leaf with a long stem; basal portion stoutly arm-like, bearing a long hooked filament and a rod at its summit; an area of short tubercular setæ at apex of the basal emargination. Harpes comb-shaped, with seven coarse teeth. Unci divided, the first plate triangular, second horn-shaped; lateral sheathing plate very large, curved and darkly colored. No basal appendages, the penultimate segment roundedly projecting ventrally and coarsely setose.

Types, three males and three females, No. 21705, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Georgetown, British Guiana, March, 1910 (H. W. B. Moore).

This species belongs to the subgenus *Melanocnion* Theobald, as defined by Dyar (Ins. Ins. Menstr., vi, 92, 1918). In transmitting the material, Mr. Moore remarks: "This might be Mr. Theobald's *Gnophodeomyia inornata*, but the type, or rather our type specimen, named by him for us, is so mouldy now that nothing much can be made out from it. The larva is abundant all the year round in sweet water canals along with that of *Aèdeomyia squamipennis*." In another letter he adds: "The adult, which is a blood-sucker, sometimes visits houses at night."

Gnophodeomyia inornata Theobald (Journ. Econ. Biol., i, 21, 1905) was described from three females, one taken in a house, two bred from larvæ found in a hollow tree-trunk. There is no certainty that the three are conspecific, and it seems probable that they are not. The type would seem to be the specimen caught in the house and we would restrict it to this. It may be, and probably is, the same as this species; but that can not be said without a very critical examination. Theobald does not mention the white scales on the sides of the head which are present in our species. The specific name *inornata* becomes invalid, as there already exists a *Culex inornatus*

(Williston, U. S. Dept. Agr., Div. Ornith. & Mamol., No. Am. Fauna, No. 7, 253, 1893). The name *aikenii* Aiken will take its place (Brit. Guiana Med. Ann., 1906, 60, 1907). We hope this association is correct; but on account of the doubt, propose the name *ocossa*, as above, so as not to leave our species possibly nameless.

If this is in fact *Gnophodomyia aikenii* Aiken (*inornata* Theob. not Will.), we would point out that *Gnophodomyia* will fall to *Melanoconion* and the species will stand as *Culex (Melanoconion) aikenii* Aiken (= *inornata* Theob. = *ocossa* D. & K.).

***Aedes thaxteri*, new species.**

Proboscis and palpi black; vertex of head with a golden stripe, dark brown subdorsally and silvery scaled on the sides. Mesonotum brown, with two narrow golden lines running back two-thirds, followed by a single narrow golden line and two sublateral golden lines on the posterior half of mesonotum; lateral line narrow, silvery. Abdomen bluish black above, with lateral quadrate silvery spots at the bases of the segments, most distinct posteriorly; venter yellowish white, banded with black. Legs black-scaled, femora yellowish white beneath nearly to tips; knee spots silvery; fore tarsi unmarked, mid tarsi with a white spot at the base of the first joint, hind tarsi with white rings as the bases of the first three joints, the last two unmarked. Wing-scales black. Claws of the tarsi simple.

Type, female, No. 21704, U. S. Nat. Mus.; Grand Etang, Grenada, West Indies, bred from larvæ in bracts of *Heliconia*, November, 1912 (R. Thaxter).

The larva falls in the table with *busckii* Coq. Head rounded; antennæ small, with a single hair. Short abdominal tufts stellate; lateral comb of the eighth segment of large spines in a long patch about two rows deep; air-tube stout, about three times as long as wide, the pecten of five long spines, then a three-haired tuft, followed after a little space by one or two more spines, but the spacing is not such that they appear de-

tached; upper head hair single, lower a small tuft, not much larger than the third tuft; anal segment with ill-defined plate, spinose on hind margin; ventral brush small, rather plainly in two ranks; anal gills four, the upper pair larger than the lower.

A NOTE ON LESTICOCAMPA, AND A NEW SPECIES

(*Diptera, Culicidæ*)

By HARRISON G. DYAR

In the monograph¹ we show that the name *Lesticocampa* should obtain for the collection of species there treated, since *Joblotia* Blanchard is based upon *digitatus* Rondani as type, and was proposed to replace *Trichoprosopon* Theobald, preoccupied by *Trichoprosopus* Macquart. We considered the possibility of *Goeldia* Theobald being an earlier name for *Lesticocampa* (page 186), but arrived at no definite conclusion. Peryassú separates *Goeldia* as having the male palpi short, about one-third the length of the proboscis, the postnotum with scales, the proboscis short and swollen at the apex. It is thus probably generically distinct from *Lesticocampa*. *Binotia* Blanchard (= *Runchomyia* Theobald, which, when emended, is preoccupied by *Rhynchomyia* Robineau Desvoidy) is said to possess a prominence on the front and is presumably separable by this. There remains, however, *Hyloconops* Lutz, the date of which is given as 1904, whereas *Lesticocampa* dates from 1906. However, on looking up Lutz's characterization of *Hyloconops* (in Bourroul), it is seen that no species is mentioned. The name *H. pallidiventer* Lutz occurs on page 49 as a new species, without description, the name being therefore a manuscript one. No species was described in *Hyloconops* till 1907 when Theobald, in volume iv of his monograph, describes *pallidiventer* and *longipalpis*, crediting the former to Lutz (1904) and the latter to Lutz MS. Lutz did not describe

¹Howard, Dyar & Knab, The Mosq. of No. & Cent. Am. & W. I., iii, 163, 1915.